

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2-4, 12-14, and 15-19.

Please amend claims 1 and 6-11 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A catheter assembly for delivering an endoprosthesis within a body lumen, comprising:
 - a catheter;
 - an expandable member;
 - an endoprosthesis disposed on the expandable member; and
 - a biocompatible material positioned on the endoprosthesis, ~~wherein~~ the biocompatible material ~~is~~ configured to prevent expansion of the endoprosthesis[.];
wherein the biocompatible material is configured to fail at an inflation pressure below the nominal inflation pressure of the expandable member.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein the biocompatible material comprises a filament that is wrapped around at least a portion of the endoprosthesis.

6. (Currently amended) The catheter assembly of claim 5, wherein the ~~stent~~ endoprosthesis has an open-lattice configuration with open areas, and the filament is threaded through one or more of the open areas of the ~~stent~~ endoprosthesis.

7. (Currently amended) The catheter assembly of claim 5, wherein the filament is heat bonded to the ~~stent~~ endoprosthesis.

8. (Currently amended) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein the biocompatible material comprises a coating on the ~~stent~~ endoprosthesis.

9. (Currently amended) The catheter assembly of claim 8, wherein the ~~stent~~ endoprosthesis has an outer surface, and the biocompatible coating is positioned on the outer surface of the ~~stent~~ endoprosthesis.

10. (Currently amended) The catheter assembly of claim 8, wherein the ~~stent~~ endoprosthesis has an inner surface, and the biocompatible coating is positioned on the inner surface of the ~~stent~~ endoprosthesis.

11. (Currently amended) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein the ~~stent~~ endoprosthesis has open areas, and the biocompatible material is positioned within one or more of said open areas of the ~~stent~~ endoprosthesis.

12-19. (Canceled)

Please add new claims 20-34 as follows:

20. (New) The catheter assembly of claim 5, wherein the filament comprises areas of varying strength along the filament such that the filament fails in a controlled manner.

21. (New) The catheter assembly of claim 20, wherein the areas of varying strength consist of one of scoring, perforations and thinner diameter portions.

22. (New) The catheter assembly of claim 8, wherein the biocompatible coating has adhesive or non-slip properties.

23. (New) The catheter assembly of claim 10, wherein the biocompatible coating forms a smooth inner surface on the endoprosthesis.

24. (New) The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein the endoprosthesis is a self-expanding stent and the biocompatible material provides inward pressure on the stent to prevent expansion of the stent.

25. (New) An endoprosthesis for deployment in a body lumen, comprising:

a stent; and

a biocompatible material positioned on the stent such that it prevents expansion of the stent;

wherein the biocompatible material comprises a filament that is wrapped around and heat bonded to the stent such that it does not overlie the distal end and the proximal end of the stent.

26. (New) The endoprosthesis of claim 25, wherein the stent has one or more open areas and the filament is threaded through one or more of the open areas.

27. (New) The endoprosthesis of claim 25, wherein the filament comprises areas of varying strength along the filament such that the filament fails in a controlled manner.

28. (New) The endoprosthesis of claim 27, wherein the areas of varying strength consist of one of scoring, perforations and thinner diameter portions.

29. (New) The catheter assembly of claim 25, wherein the stent has an open-lattice configuration.

30. (New) The catheter assembly of claim 25, wherein the stent is self-expanding and the biocompatible filament provides inward pressure on the stent to prevent expansion of the stent.

31. (New) A catheter assembly for delivering an endoprosthesis within a body lumen, comprising:

a catheter;

an expandable member;

an endoprosthesis disposed on the expandable member, the endoprosthesis having a distal end and a proximal end; and

a biocompatible material positioned on and heat bonded to the endoprosthesis, the biocompatible material configured to prevent expansion of the endoprosthesis;

wherein the biocompatible material comprises a sheath that surrounds a portion of the endoprosthesis, the sheath having a length less than the length of the endoprosthesis, and the sheath being positioned on the endoprosthesis so that the sheath does not overlie either the distal end or the proximal end of the endoprosthesis.

32. (New) The catheter assembly of claim 31, wherein the endoprosthesis is a self-expanding stent and the biocompatible sheath provides inward pressure on the stent to prevent expansion of the stent.

33. (New) A catheter assembly for delivering an endoprosthesis within a body lumen, comprising:

a catheter;

an expandable member;

an endoprosthesis disposed on the expandable member, the endoprosthesis having a distal end and a proximal end; and

a biocompatible material positioned on and heat bonded to the endoprosthesis, the biocompatible material configured to prevent expansion of the endoprosthesis;

wherein the biocompatible material comprises a sheath that surrounds a portion of the endoprosthesis, the sheath having a length less than the length of the endoprosthesis, and the sheath being positioned on the endoprosthesis so that the sheath overlies either the distal end or the proximal end of the endoprosthesis.

34. (New) The catheter assembly of claim 33, wherein the endoprosthesis is a self-expanding stent and the biocompatible sheath provides inward pressure on the stent to prevent expansion of the stent.